

A NEW SPECIES OF *OGCODES* FROM THE JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLANDS

(*Diptera Acroceridea*)

CURTIS W. SABROSKY

Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine
Agricultural Research Administration
United States Department of Agriculture

Se describe el primer *Acroceridae* de las Islas Juan Fernández. Perteneció al género *Ogcodes*, de amplia distribución. Las primeras dos especies sudamericanas del género se dieron a conocer sólo en 1945 por el propio autor y precisamente de la parte continental de Chile, con una de las cuales guarda muy estrecha relación la especie nueva aquí descrita.

* * *

The genus *Ogcodes* is widely distributed, with species in every continent, especially in the temperate portions. The first two species of the genus to be recorded from South America were described in 1945 (Sabrosky, Revista Chilena Hist. Nat. 48:317-319), on the basis of unique males from Chile. Recently Mr. P. G. Kuschel submitted for study a nice series of *Ogcodes*, with both sexes represented, which he collected on the Juan Fernández Islands. I believe that this is the first record of the family *Acroceridae* (1) for those islands, and I take pleasure in dedicating the new species to the collector.

Ogcodes kuscheli, new species

Male.—As described for *Ogcodes triangularis* Sabrosky (1945, op. cit., p. 317, fig. 1), except as follows: Abdomen with similar color pattern but more extensively infuscated, the third to fifth tergites black on posterior halves and the median and lateral spots broader, the abdomen thus appearing to have two rows of yellow spots on a black ground, those on the third segment small and inconspicuous in two specimens. Abdominal hairs predominantly black, especially the unusually long hairs along the midline of second to fourth tergites, and across the hind margin of the fourth. Veins strong, dark brown, vein M_1 absent but in

(1) I have abandoned the spelling "Acroceratidae" in favor of the simpler form "Acroceridae", in line with the very reasonable argument by Greensted (1948, Ent. Monthly Mag. 84: 280-281).

its position such a deep and pronounced fold or crease that, especially certain angles a portion of the vein may appear to be present, especially distally.

Female.—Strikingly different from male, the thorax predominantly golden yellow with three broad black stripes on mesonotum, the median complete, lateral stripes anteriorly abbreviated, the three stripes narrowly separated in allotype but almost entirely fused in paratype, the allotype also with less infuscation on pleura and scutellum. Abdomen of both specimens somewhat shriveled, as often happens in female examples of this genus, but apparently with the same fundamental color pattern as in males, though with much larger yellow spots and correspondingly narrower black areas. Hairs on thorax erect, but only half as long as in male sex; abdominal hairs also much shorter than in males.

Length, 5 to 6 mm.

Type male, allotype, and five paratypes (4♂♂, 1♀), Masatierra Island, JUAN FERNÁNDEZ (P. G. Kuschel). Type, allotype and two paratypes in the collection of Universidad de Chile at Santiago; three paratypes (2♂♂, 1♀) in the U. S. National Museum. I am indebted to Mr. Kuschel for the information that the flies were collected in the dense woods at the foot of El Yunque, the highest peak of the island. Four males were collected on a cloudy day, sheltered under thick fronds of ferns (*Blechnum*) in shady woods (March 11, 1951); the other three specimens were flying on a fine day in a little clearing near Portezuelo El Camote (March 17, 1951).

The wing venation merits particular mention, though unfortunately I cannot now compare it directly with of the holotype of *O. triangularis* which was returned to Professor Carlos Stuardo several years ago. The veins are stronger and more complete than usual in *Ogcodes*. The r-m crossvein is complete, and vein R₄₊₅ is strong and somewhat sinuous, curving forward quite strongly at its distal end. Vein M₂ is virtually complete. The veins in the posterior half of the wing, which are usually weak or obsolete in *Ogcodes* are strong and well-marked, including the basal portion of media and a complete cubitus with two branches, the media curving posteriorly to merge with the anterior branch of cubitus. The position of the anal vein is marked by an unusually strong ford. The use of wing venation in flies which have so many obsolete and obsolescent veins may be looked upon with suspicion, but it has been my experience in long series of North American *Ogcodes* that the general venational patterns are remarkably constant within a species, and they will often serve consistently to separate two closely related species that have been badly mixed up because of overlapping variations in color and size.

Ogcodes kuscheli is unquestionably closely related to *O. triangularis*, and further material of the latter, especially of the female sex, might lead to the conclusion that *kuscheli* is more properly considered a subspecies. From present information, however, it seems best to regard it as an insular species peculiar to the Juan Fernández Islands, which are known to possess a high proportion of endemics in their fauna.